

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 DHA-02 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 /098 W

-----310747Z 119863 /10

R 290919Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5665

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRZNORIA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0135

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SF, PINT, PFOR

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY. SPEAKING ON JANUARY 28 IN RESPONSE TO THIS WEEK'S NO-CONFIDENCE DEBATE (CAPE TOWN 0125), PRIME MINISTER VORSTER FIRST WARNED OF THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO SOUTH AFRICA AND THEN LAUNCHED INTO TWO HOURS OF RIDUCULE OF THE OPPOSITION AND DEFENSE OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. ANTICIPATING RISING EXTERNAL PRESSURES ON THE COUNTRY, HE PROMISED UNWAVERING PURSUIT OF SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT AND CONCLUDED WITH A STATEMENT ON RHODESIA, DECLARING HE WOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE FOR PEACE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA BUT HE WOULD NOT BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON IAN SMITH. END SUMMARY.

2. VORSTER RIDICULED THE PRESENT EFFORT TO FORM A COMBINED

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OPPOSITION, NOTING THE OPPOSITION HAD NOW SPLIT INTO THREE PARTS (CAPE TOWN 0072) AND DWELLING ON THE DIFFERENCES WHICH HAD LONG EXISTED BETWEEN THE PHILOSOPHIES AND POLICIES OF THE UP AND PRP. RECALLING THAT UP LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF HAD INTRODUCED THE LAST THIRTEEN NO-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS IN AS MANY YEARS, VORSTER OBSERVED THAT THE ONE GRAAFF HAD INTRODUCED THIS WEEK WAS LIKELY TO BE HIS LAST. GRAAFF HAD BEEN A DISMAL

FAILURE BECAUSE OF POLITICAL INEPTNESS. THE OPPOSITION IS NOW ESSENTIALLY LEADERLESS AND WITHOUT A PROGRAM; IT CANNOT FUNCTION AS AN OPPOSITION SINCE IT CANNOT OFFER ALTERNATIVES TO GOVERNMENT POLICY. IN ANY EVENT, THE OPPOSITION HAD SUFFERED CUMULATIVE SETBACKS OVER THE YEARS BECAUSE IT HAD NOT ADVOCATED ALTERNATIVES ACCEPTABLE TO THE ELECTORATE.

3. SEVERAL OPPOSITION FIGURES CAME IN FOR INDIVIDUAL ATTACK. IN ADDITION TO GRAAFF, MOST NOTABLE AMONG THEM WERE JAPPIE BASSON OF UP AND COLIN EGLIN, HARRY SCHWARTZ AND PARTICULARLY HELEN SUZMAN OF PRP.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE PRIME MINISTER COMMENDED THE CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE WHICH HE SAID HAD ALREADY BEEN DISPLAYED BY THE NEW INDEPENDENT UNITED PARTY.

5. THE NATIONAL PARTY, VORSTER ASSURED, WOULD BE STEADFAST IN THE PURSUIT OF SEPERATE DEVELOPMENT AS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF ALL RACES. WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK HE WOULD ROOT OUT ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION. MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE, HE SAID, CITING THE NEW SPORTS POLICY, HOME LEASHOLD FOR BLACKS (WHICH HE SAID WAS SCARCELY DIFFERENT FROM HOME OWNERSHIP), AND IMPROVED HOTEL FACILITIES FOR COLOREDS. IN RESPONSE TO COLIN EGLIN'S PROPOSAL THAT COLOREDS BE GRANTED FULL CITIZENSHIP, INCLUDING FULL POLITICAL RIGHTS, VORSTER SAID HE WOULD NEVER COUNTERANCE SEATS FOR THE COLOREDS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT. THE CABINET COUNCIL SET UP TO PROVIDE A ROLE FOR COLOREDS AND INDIANS WAS THE PROPER SOLUTION AND IT HAD ALREADY HAD CONSTRUCTIVE RESULTS.

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YM SPEAKING ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE PRIME MINISTER WARNED OF THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE COMMUNISTS WERE ABLE TO GAIN CONTROL OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NATURAL RICHES AND STRATEGIC POSITION. SOUTH AFRICA, HE EXPECTED, WOULD COME UNDER INCREASING EXTERNAL PRESSURE. THE REASON WAS NOT APARTHEID BUT RATHER THE DEMANDS OF "MILITANTS" IN THE UN AND OAU THAT SOUTH AFRICA FORCE SMITH TO SETTLE WITH MUGABE AND NKOMO, HAND SOUTH WEST AFRICA OVER TO SAM NUJOMA, AND BRING BLACK MAJORITY RULE TO SOUTH AFRICA. HE FIRMLY REJECTED ANY THOUGHT OF GIVING IN TO THESE DEMANDS. VORSTER CONDEMNED UN, INCLUDING WESTER, SUPPORT OF LESOTHO'S "FALSE" CHARGE THAT LESOTHO'S BORDERS WITH TRANSKEI HAD BEEN CLOSED. WESTERN RECOGNITION OF TRANSKEI, HE ADDED, WAS DEPENDENT ON THE AFRICAN NATIONS; IF THE LATTER EXTENDED RECOGNITION, THE WEST WOULD FOLLOW SUIT. WHAT DETERRED THE AFRICANS WAS THE FACT THAT RECOGNITION OF TRANSKEI WOULD DESTROY THEIR ARGUMENT FOR ON-MAN-ONE-VOTE IN SOUTH AFRICA. THE PRIME MINISTER CONCLUDED WITH REMARKS ON RHODESIA. HE REVIEWED THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH HAD BEGUN

WITH THE VORSTER-KISSINGER TALKS IN EUROPE, CALLED FOR CAREFUL
CONSIDERATION OF THE REALITIES OF SMITH'S POSITION BEFORE
CRITICISM IS METED OUT, AND DECLARED HE WOULD NOT UNDERTAKE
TO PRESSURE SMITH INTO SUBMISSION (CAPE TOWN 0132).
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Message Attributes

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Subject: PRIME MINISTER ADDRESSES PARLIAMENT
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SF, (VORSTER, BALTHAZAR JOHANNES)
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/355d70da-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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